

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing apparatus comprising:

input means for inputting an image signal;

5 image processing means for subjecting the image
signal input from the input means to an image process
comprising a plurality of processes;

memory means for use in the image process in the
image processing means;

10 designation means for designating a process
condition for the image signal input by the input
means; and

control means for effecting a control to allocate
a memory capacity, which is usable in the memory means,
to the individual processes in the image process in
15 accordance with the process condition designated by the
designation means.

2. The image processing apparatus according to
claim 1, wherein the process condition designated by
the designation means comprises a character/photo mode,
20 a photo mode with a stress on reproducibility of a
photo, a character mode with a stress on
reproducibility of a character, and a map mode.

3. The image processing apparatus according to
claim 1, wherein the process condition designated by
the designation means comprises an auto mode in which
25 it is determined whether the input image signal is a
color signal or a monochromatic signal, a color mode in

which a color image process is executed, and a monochromatic mode in which a monochromatic image process is executed.

4. The image processing apparatus according to
5 claim 1, wherein said plurality of processes comprise a color conversion process, a discrimination process, a filter process and a tone process.

5. The image processing apparatus according
to claim 1, wherein the control means differently
10 allocates a processing time to the individual processes in the image process in accordance with the process condition designated by the designation means.

6. The image processing apparatus according to
claim 1, wherein in a case where a processing time in
15 the image process is restricted, the control means allocates a memory capacity to the individual processes in the image process in accordance with the process condition designated by the designation means.

7. The image processing apparatus according to
20 claim 1, wherein in a case where a processing time in the image process is restricted, the control means differently allocates the processing time to the individual processes in the image process in accordance with the process condition designated by the
25 designation means.

8. The image processing apparatus according to
claim 1 or 2, wherein in a case where the process

condition designated by the designation means is a photo mode, the control means allocates a greater memory capacity of the memory means, or a greater processing time, or a greater memory capacity and a greater processing time to a color conversion process in the image process than to the other processes in accordance with the photo mode.

9. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, wherein in a case where the process condition designated by the designation means is a photo mode, the control means allocates a less memory capacity of the memory means, or a less processing time, or a less memory capacity and a less processing time to a discrimination process in the image process than to the other processes in accordance with the photo mode, or the control means allocates neither a memory capacity of the memory means nor a processing time to the discrimination process.

10. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, wherein in a case where the process condition designated by the designation means is a character mode, the control means allocates a greater memory capacity of the memory means, or a greater processing time, or a greater memory capacity and a greater processing time to a discrimination process in the image process than to the other processes in accordance with the character mode.

11. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, wherein in a case where the process condition designated by the designation means is a map mode, the control means allocates a greater memory capacity of the memory means, or a greater processing time, or a greater memory capacity and a greater processing time to a filter process in the image process than to the other processes in accordance with the map mode.

12. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein in a case where an additional process that is different from the processes in the image process is newly provided, the control means effects a control to allocate a memory capacity, which is usable in the memory means, to the individual processes of the image process and to the additional process in accordance with the process condition designated by the designation means.

13. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein in a case where an additional process that is different from the processes in the image process is newly provided, the control means differently allocates a processing time to the individual processes of the image process and to the additional process in accordance with the process condition designated by the designation means.

14. An image processing apparatus comprising:

input means for inputting an image signal;

image processing means for subjecting the image
signal input from the input means to an image process
comprising a plurality of processes;

5 memory means for use in the image process in the
image processing means;

determination means for determining attributes of
the image signal input from the input means;

 designation means for designating a process
10 condition for the image signal input by the input
means; and

 control means for effecting a control to allocate
a memory capacity, which is usable in the memory means,
to the individual processes in the image process in
15 accordance with the process condition designated by the
designation means or a determination result of the
determination means.

 15. The image processing apparatus according
to claim 14, wherein the control means differently
20 allocates a processing time to the individual processes
in the image process in accordance with the process
condition designated by the designation means or the
determination result of the determination means.

 16. An image processing method comprising:

25 inputting an image signal;

 subjecting the input image signal to an image
process comprising a plurality of processes with use of

memory means;

designating a process condition for the input
image signal; and

allocating a memory capacity, which is usable in
5 the memory means, to the individual processes in the
image process in accordance with the designated process
condition.

17. The image processing method according to
claim 16, wherein a processing time is differently
10 allocated to the individual processes in the image
process in accordance with the designated process
condition.